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*Abriss der Psychologie*, by HERMANN EBBINGHAUS. Veit & Co., Leipzig, 1908. pp. 196.

This little outline, which ought really to be translated into English, begins with brief history of psychology. Then follows in the first section short chapters on the relation of brain to soul, structure of the nervous system, reaction and parallelism, nature of the soul. The second division is on elementary phenomena of psychic life—sensations, concepts, feelings, instincts, will. Then the fundamental laws of psychic processes—attention, memory, fatigue. Third, the outer effects of these processes seen in sensation and movement, concept and movement. The third division is entitled "The Complications of Psychic Life." Under the caption of the life of concepts, the author treats perception, illusions, memory, abstraction, with twenty good pages on language; then follows a discourse on the relations between that and knowledge and faith. The second part of the third section deals with feeling and action. Here first are discussed the causes of the complications of feelings—their intensity, form, association, irradiation, the passions and moods, and complex and free activities. The last section is devoted to the highest activities of the soul—the disadvantages or the evils of foresight, religion, art and morals. We only wish the book had been more copiously illustrated than with the very slight seven cuts.

*Goethe's Wetzlarer Verwandschaft*, von R. SOMMER. Leipzig, J. A. Barth, 1908. pp. 47. Mit 8 Abbildungen.

The argument of this little book is as follows. Goethe tells us that he had from his mother "die Frohnatur und Lust zu fabulieren." Since Goethe closely resembles in feature and expression his mother's mother, the question arises whether the "Lust zu fabulieren" did not come from his maternal grandmother. Of her, the Frau Stadtschultheiss Textor geb. Lindheimer, we have no record save a scandalous and untrustworthy statement of Senckenberg's. Of her father, Goethe's maternal great-grandfather, we know more: he was part author of a satire, "Diarium obsidionis Wetzlariensis," 1702,—though how much he wrote of this satire is unknown: the chief author was apparently a Dr. von Pulian. The satire (it is printed by Dr. Sommer) shows five characteristics: clearness of visual imagery, fanciful embroidery of real events ('confabulation'), pleasure in the drastic and grotesque, an underlying serious appreciation of cultural conditions, and a rationalistically pedantic and lawyer-like style. As all these characteristics may be found in Goethe's writing, we may conclude that Goethe owed the "Lust zu fabulieren" to the Lindheimer stock.

The weak points in the argumentation are clear enough. We know nothing of the temperament of the maternal grandmother; the satire was composed by "einige Wetzlarische Witzlinge" of whom Cornelius Lindheimer was seemingly not the chief, so that his part in its composition may have been small; the main characters of the satire, which is by no means underestimated by Dr. Sommer, are the characters of satire at large; and von Pulian was a lawyer, so that the 'Witzlinge' would naturally belong to his circle, and the legal style is accounted for. One would say that the positive evidence must be strengthened, and that there must be negative evidence (marked absence of certain attributes in the other lines of descent) to support it, before Dr. Sommer's conclusion can be accepted. P. E. WINTER.

*The Riddle of the Personality*, by H. ADDINGTON BRUCE. Moffat, Yard & Company, New York, 1908. pp. 247.

Much of this work originally appeared in Appleton's Magazine and

this sufficiently indicates its somewhat popular character. The writer discusses the subliminal self, the relations of the subconscious to American explorers, pioneers in France and the New World, the evidence for survival, the nemesis of spiritism, D. D. Home and Usapia Palideno, a census of hallucinations, hypnotism and the drink habit, hypnoidization, spiritism and telepathy, and the work concludes with hints for further reading. The author states that he has received "personal counsel and aid from Professor James of Harvard and from Professor Hyslop of the American Institute for Psychic Research and from others." The author thinks that such studies provide a corrective for the conclusions toward which the investigations of the psychopathologists tend, despite the fact that they have done much to alleviate human suffering. It is sufficient characterization of the work to say that the author is in quest of proof of a future life and thinks he finds it from these studies.

*Plato's Psychology in its Bearings on the Development of Will*, by MARY HAY WOOD. Harry Frowde, New York, 1907. pp. 62.

This master's thesis is really a valuable addition to the apparatus of the student of Plato. The author gathers his general views about mental activities, whole and part concerning appetite, emotion, thought, reason, will, and brings the various important passages together under each of these heads, showing excellent knowledge of the author in the original.

*Modern Classical Philosophers*. Compiled by Benjamin Rand. Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston, 1908. pp. 740.

This book presents in a series of extracts some of the essential things of the chief philosophic systems from Bruno to Herbert Spencer both inclusive. It is a history of modern philosophy based upon selections from the original text which are translated from the original into English. The author has sought to apply the case system used in teaching law. The work seeks to enable the reader to discover at once the content and method of the great and philosophic masters of modern times. The writers included are Bacon, Hobbs, Descartes, Spinoza, Liebnitz, Locke, Burke, Hume, Condillac, Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Comte, John Stuart Mill.

*Lucretius, Epicurean and Poet*, by JOHN MASSON. John Murray, London, 1907. pp. 453.

This book is really a Godsend to all teachers of the history of philosophy. It is comprehensive and learned and treats of the times of Lucretius; his life, his influence on his own age; the origin of the atomic theory; the atom of Lucretius; the birth of the world; how modern science bridges over the gulf between atoms and living things; the controversy as to the potency of matter; Epicurean psychology; atomic declination and free will; the theory of images; the Epicurean gods; the world as conceived by Lucretius; the roots of Epicureanism, Democritus; Epicurus as an ethical teacher; poetry and science; what the world owes to Lucretius; his teaching and personality.

*The Will to Doubt: an essay in philosophy for the general thinker*. By ALFRED H. LLOYD. Swan, Sonnenschein & Company, London, 1907. pp. 285. (Ethical Library.)

Truth, the author premises, has neither visible form nor body, is without habitation or name, like the Son of Man it hath not where to lay its head. This work is designed to be in some sense an introduction to philosophy, although it is really addressed quite as much to the general reader. The author seeks to meet a real emergency of the